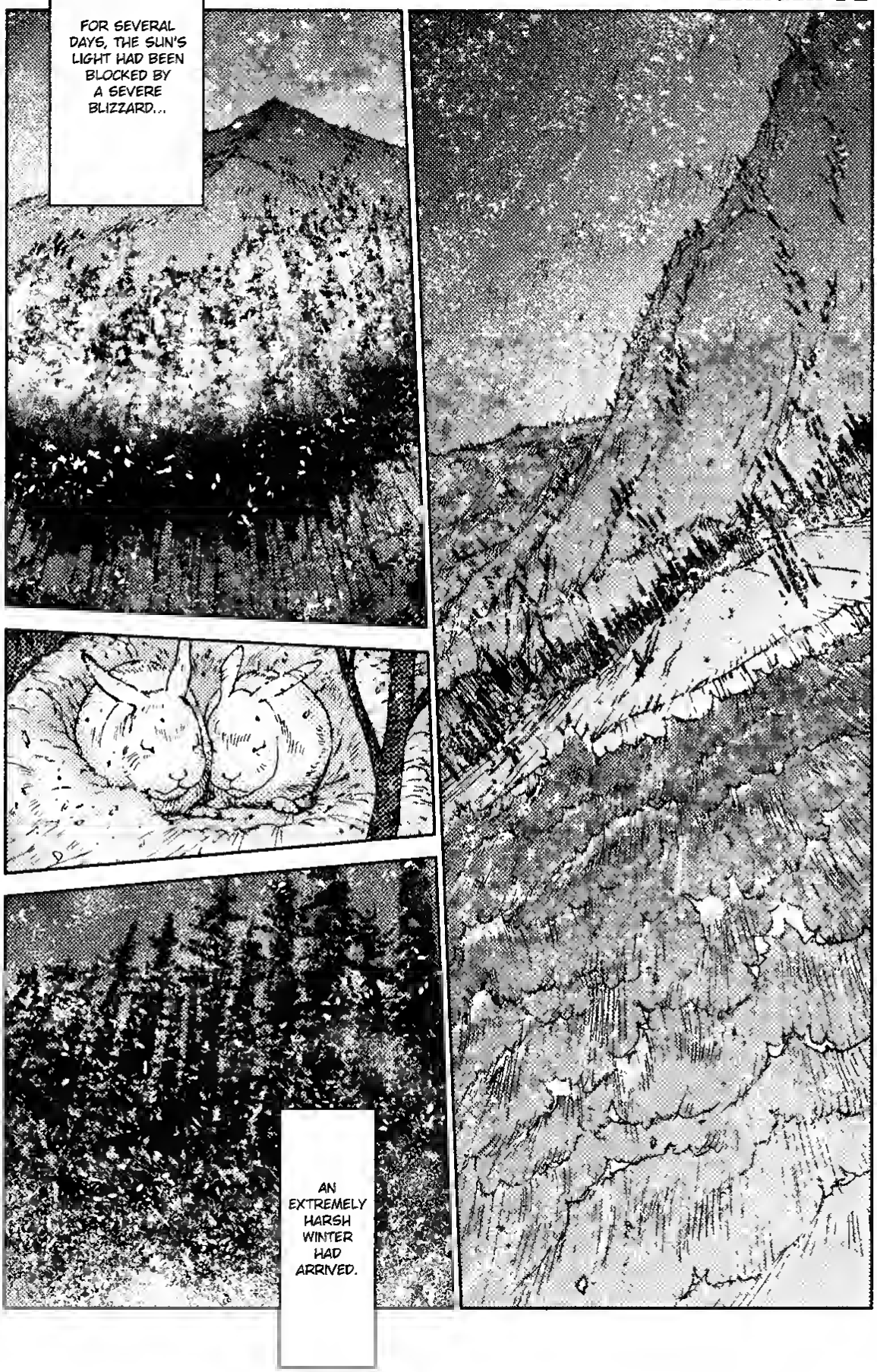
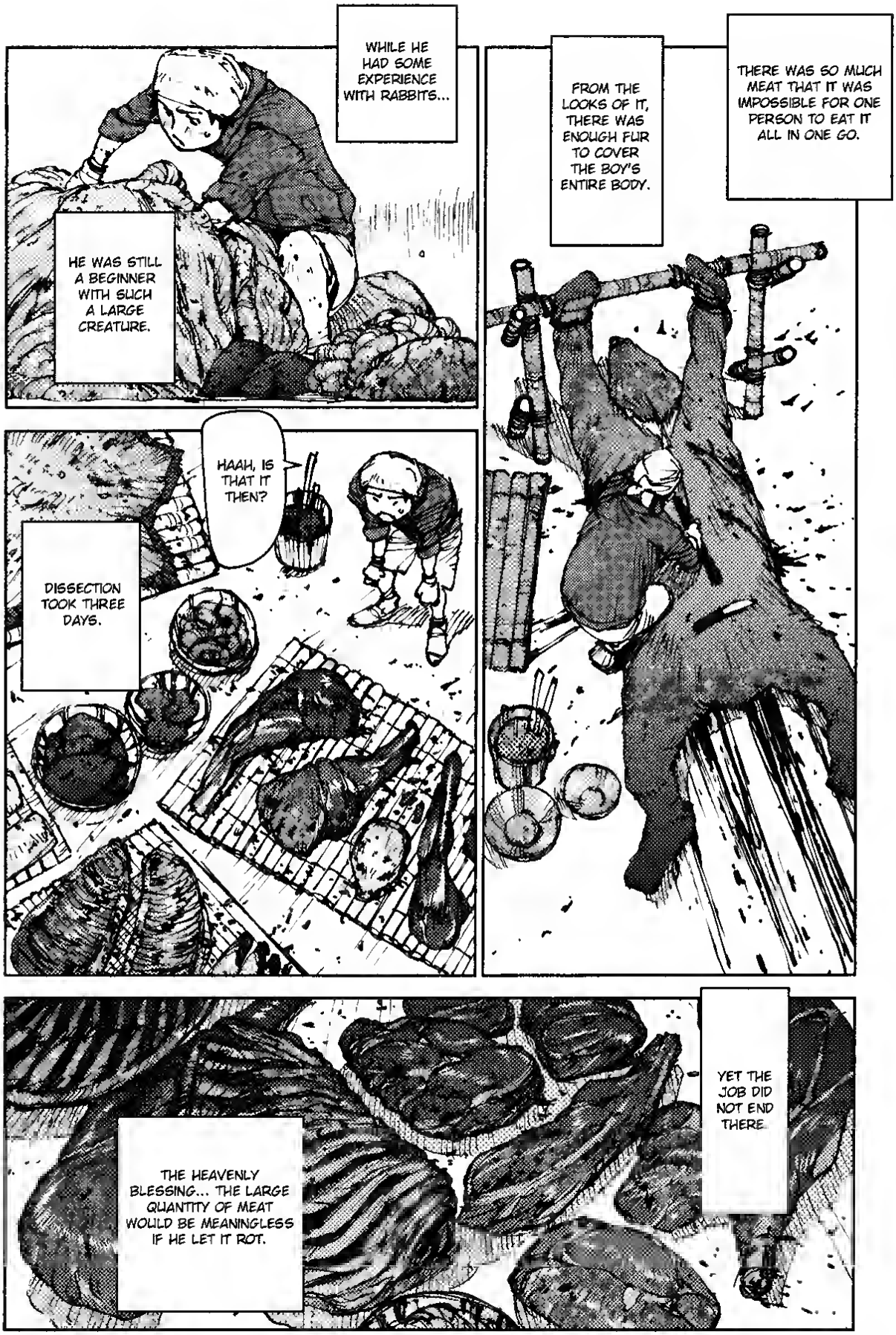
DANGER 19


FOR SEVERAL DAYS, THE SUN'S LIGHT HAD BEEN BLOCKED BY A SEVERE BLIZZARD...
AN EXTREMELY HARSH WINTER HAD ARRIVED.

HAAH.
HAAH.
HAAH.

GREAT. IT LOOKS LIKE IT'LL BE CLEAR TODAY.
THE SNOW'S BEEN FALLING FOR AGES HERE.
TWO, THREE MORE DAYS OF THIS WOULD'VE BEEN TERRIBLE.
THE DEATH BATTLE WITH THE BEAR HAD BEEN SEVERAL DAYS PRIOR.
IT HAD PROVEN A TERRIFYING EXPERIENCE FOR HIM.
DURING THIS COLD WEATHER, THE BOY HAD BEEN MAKING HIS WAY TO THE SUMMIT OF THE ISLAND IN THE DARK OF NIGHT.
NO MISTAK-ING IT.
YET, RATHER UNEXPECTEDLY, HE FOUND A HEAVENLY BLESSING FROM IT.
IF NOTHING ELSE, I HOPE TOMORROW'S CLEAR.


WHILE HE HAD SOME EXPERIENCE WITH RABBITS...
HE WAS STILL A BEGINNER WITH SUCH A LARGE CREATURE.
FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, THERE WAS ENOUGH FUR TO COVER THE BOY'S ENTIRE BODY.
THERE WAS SO MUCH MEAT THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ONE PERSON TO EAT IT ALL IN ONE GO.
HAAH, IS THAT IT THEN?
DISSECTION TOOK THREE DAYS.
THE HEAVENLY BLESSING... THE LARGE QUANTITY OF MEAT WOULD BE MEANINGLESS IF HE LET IT ROT.
YET THE JOB DID NOT END THERE

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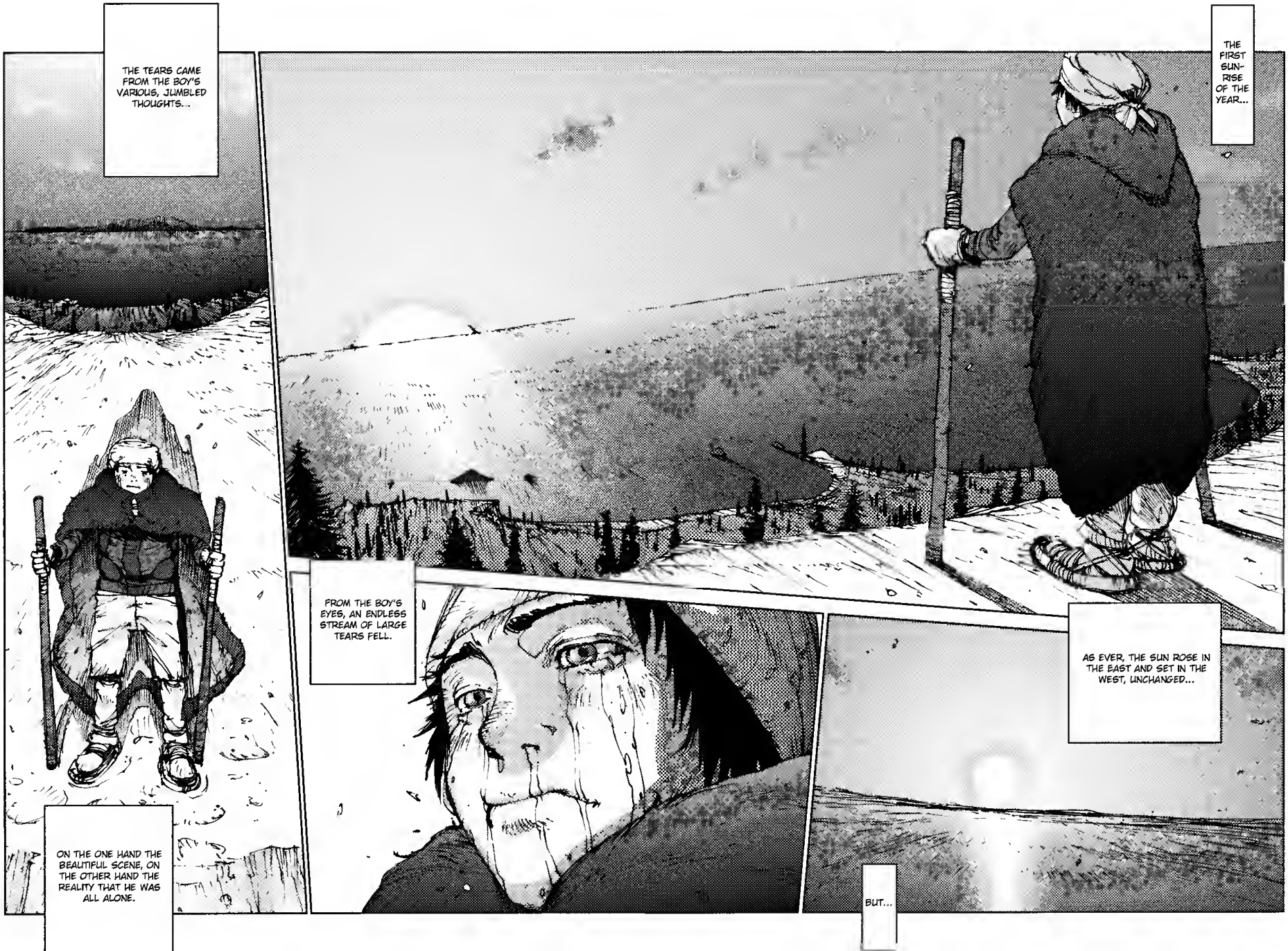
HE REQUIRED SOME WAY OF PRESERVING THE MEAT, SUCH AS A REFRIGERATOR OR BY DRYING IT.
HUFF.
THE HOLE SHOULD BE DEEP ENOUGH.
CRAP, CRAP.
I HAVE TO MAKE SURE AS LITTLE MOISTURE AS POSSIBLE GETS IN.
AFTER I NEED TO COOL IT LOTS.
I COULD GET FROSTBITE.
THIS SPOT SHOULDN'T GET MUCH SUN. SO MOST OF THE MEAT SHOULD BE FINE HERE.
IT'LL WORK AS A NATURAL REFRIGERATOR.
I SHOULD PROBABLY TREAT THEM ALL IN TURN LATER ON BUT...
THIS SHOULD DO TO START WITH.
HE WAS PROGRESSING WITH HIS WORK BASED UPON INFORMATION FROM BOOKS.
FIRST UP, I HAVE TO CUT IT UP AS FINELY AS I CAN... RIGHT.

WOULD SEA WATER DO?
NEXT, SUBMERGE IT IN SALT WATER FOR SEVERAL DAYS...
SALT
I HOPE IT GOES WELL AND ALL...
AFTER THAT YOU SIMPLY WAIT FOR IT TO DRY ON THIS RACK...
SEVERAL DAYS PASSED IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE...
STILL, IT REALLY IS SNOWING OFTEN...
WHILE THINKING OVER SUCH ARDUOUS TASKS...
IF IT DOES, I'D LIKE TO TRY AND CHALLENGE MYSELF WITH SMOKED FISH.

AND SO, HE WELCOMED THE DAY IN.
MADE IIIIT!
HAAH.
HAAH.
ALRIGHT, LOOKS LIKE I MADE IT IN TIME.


THE TEARS CAME FROM THE BOY'S VARIOUS, JUMBLED THOUGHTS...
ON THE ONE HAND THE BEAUTIFUL SCENE, ON THE OTHER HAND THE REALITY THAT HE WAS ALL ALONE.
FROM THE BOY'S EYES, AN ENDLESS STREAM OF LARGE TEARS FELL.
THE FIRST SUN-RISE OF THE YEAR...
AS EVER, THE SUN ROSE IN THE EAST AND SET IN THE WEST, UNCHANGED...
BUT...